CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   1.   A method for managing subsystem processes from a central site in a digital media

2.   distributor system, the method comprising:

3.   utilizing a plurality of threads as a task manager in a central site server of the digital

4.   media distributor; and

5.   autonomously controlling initiation and termination of one or more subsystem processes

6.   with the task manager.

   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein utilizing a plurality of threads further comprises

utilizing a main manager thread.

   3.   The method of claim 2 wherein utilizing a plurality of threads further comprises

utilizing a subsystem control thread as a child thread of the main manager thread.

1.   4.   The method of claim 3 wherein utilizing a plurality of threads further comprises

2.   utilizing a watchdog worker thread as a child thread of the subsystem control thread.

1.   5.   The method of claim 4 wherein utilizing a plurality of threads further comprises

2.   utilizing a spawn worker thread as a child thread of the watchdog worker thread.

1   6. The method of claim 5 further comprising utilizing one watchdog worker thread and

2   one spawn worker thread for each subsystem process.

1   7. The method of claim 3 further comprising utilizing the subsystem control thread to

2   determine need for initiation of a subsystem process.

1   8. The method of claim 6 further comprising utilizing the watchdog worker thread to

2   start each subsystem process through the spawn worker thread and to monitor performance of

3   each subsystem process.

1   9. The method of claim 8 wherein utilizing the spawn worker thread further comprises

2   spawning each subsystem process and waiting for termination of each spawned subsystem

3   process.

1   10. The method of claim 1 wherein controlling one or more subsystem processes further

2   comprises controlling a subsystem process from the group comprising a scheduler process, a

3   stage manager process, a local insertion system proxy process, an error document check process,

4   a response document processor process, a disk pool manager process, a request generator process,

5   As-Run manager processes, an update network break time process, and a network local broadcast

6   process.

1   11. A digital media distribution (DMD) system with centralized management of

2   subsystem processes, the DMD system comprising:

3   a distribution network for data object transmission;

4   a central site server, the central site server utilizing a plurality of threads as a task

5   manager for autonomous control of initiation and termination of one or more subsystem

6   processes associated with data object transmission; and

7   a plurality of remote site servers for receiving data object transmissions from the

8   central site server via the distribution network.

1   12. The system of claim 10 wherein the central site server utilizes a main manager thread

2   for the task manager.

       13. The system of claim 11 wherein the central site server utilizes a subsystem control

thread as a child thread of the main manager thread.

       14. The system of claim 12 wherein the central site server utilizes a watchdog worker

thread as a child thread of the subsystem control thread.

1   15. The system of claim 13 wherein the central site server utilizes a spawn worker thread

2   as a child thread of the watchdog worker thread.

1   16. The system of claim 14 wherein the central site server utilizes one watchdog worker

2   thread and one spawn worker thread for each subsystem process.

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1   17. The system of claim 12 wherein the central site server further utilizes the subsystem

2   control thread to determine need for initiation of a subsystem process.

1   18. The system of claim 15 wherein the central site server further utilizes the watchdog

2   worker thread to start each subsystem process through the spawn worker thread and to monitor

3   performance of each subsystem process.

1   19. The system of claim 17 wherein the central site server further utilizes the spawn

2   worker thread for spawning each subsystem process and waiting for termination of each spawned

3   subsystem process.

20.   A computer readable medium containing program instruction for managing

2   subsystem processes from a central site in a digital media distributor (DMD) system, the program

3   instructions comprising:

4   providing a task manager as a main program thread of an operating system of a central

5   site server of the DMD system; and

6   managing subsystem processes from start-up to shut down, including states of online,

7   offline, process inoperable, deadlock inoperable, and spawn inoperable, with the task manager to

8   dynamically manage the DMD system.

1   21. The program instructions of claim 19 wherein providing a task manager further

2   comprises utilizing a control thread and worker threads for managing the subsystem processes.